feedback

Issues usually ignored

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to Mark Temple’s Friday, September 17, column advocating that the Democratic Party propose new, dynamic policies to counter Reaganomics. I am not opposed to this. However, I think practical considerations have compelled Democrats and Republicans alike to stress their candidates’ personalities rather than the issues.

Take for example the Massachusetts Republican gubernatorial primary. John Laxian, a highly charismatic upset with no political experience or platform of substance, captured his party’s endorsement and held a lead in the polls until The Boston Globe published an expose that cast serious doubts upon his integrity.

I see two reasons for this emphasis on personality. First, the present vagueness defining party lines makes it difficult for a party to explicitly advance a platform, or for a voter to put faith in such an advancement. Look no farther than Democrat Ed King who supports Reaganomics, or the great majority of the population who are either unaware or unconcerned about the economic issues of the day. Trial and error are the present trend. Set forth a program, and then allow forces in the system to shape it into a working policy. Thus, I believe the voter is less interested in seeing specific solutions or even a general set of principles advanced and more interested in seeing an energetic, charismatic candidate who will do something, allowing the complexities of the system to further define it.

For better or worse, I believe personalities, not policies, will win this campaign.

Raffi Aroian ’83

Ad was disgusting

To the Editor:

We are writing to express our disgust at an ad that you allowed to be printed in your Friday, September 17 issue of The Tech. This ad dealt with a “Hottest College Jock” contest being held at a Boston gay lounge.

The presence of this ad in The Tech was a violent offense to the MIT community. It can be reasonably assumed that any organization that runs an ad for a gay publication is an organization which gives ad space to an organization which that medium supports in some way and/or has a certain amount of responsibility toward the school and its students. As a comparison situation, imagine what might happen if the paper contained an ad from Playboy looking for centerfolds for its magazine. Supporters of the feminist movement from Eastgate to Westgate would be out for the editor’s head the moment the issue came out. The fact that a great majority of the population at MIT might be revolted by ads of this type should give enough cause for it not to be printed at all.

Just because it is uncomfortable to discuss homosexuality does not mean that we as heterosexuals can or should have to tolerate such flagrant neglect of our sensitivity. This does not reflect well at all upon The Tech’s judgment in these situations. The fact that The Tech is MIT’s official student publication to the offense of a great number of people? As a comparable situation, imagine what might happen if the paper contained an ad from Playboy looking for centerfolds for its magazine.

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